THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In Kerala-Konkan Basin acquisition of 1800 LK of 2D seismic data and drilling of 5 wells have been planned during the period 1994-97.

In addition to the above, 2100 LK 2D seismic data has been planned for 1994-95 in deep water areas of Kerala-Konkan.

Vacent posts of SCs/STs in IBP

506. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in IBP Company Limited;

(b) the reasons for not filling up these posts; and

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) IBP Company Limited has got backlog vacancies of 22 Scheduled Castes and 19 Scheduled Tribes as on 13-3-1995. Action for filling up of the backlog positions could not be taken up in full swing as recruitment had been temporarily kept in abeyance, since IBP is in the process of redeployment of surplus manpower in their organisation. However, since December, 1993 IBP had advertised 5 vacancies of SCs and 2 vacancies of STs against which IBP could recruit 2 SC and one ST candidates.

Retail outlets to freedom fighters in Tamil Nadu

507. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of freedom fighters who have been sanctioned petrol retail outlets and LPG agencies in Tamil Nadu during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): During the last three years three retail outlet dealerships and one LPG distributorship have been allotted under the Freedom Fighters category by the oil marketing companies, in Tamil Nadu.

Increase in the Commission for LPG

508. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Indian LPG Distributors Federation regarding increase of commission, abolition of slab procedure of commission and for evolving any concrete formula for fixation of separate prices for the home delivery of LPG cylinders and for their delivery at the godown;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) LPG Distributor's Commission has been increased effective 1.9.1993 as per the details given below:

Slab	Ratc of Commission
0—2500 refills sales p.m.	Rs. 7.30/Cyl (14.2 Kg.)
Above 2500 refills sales per month	Rs. 6.50//Cv (14.2 Ka.)

Home delivery of LPG Cylinder has been considered as an integral part of the Distributors' function. However, consumer has been provided an option to lift the cylinder from godown/show room with a rebate of Rs. 2.50/Cyl.

Industrial pipeline Natural Gas connections to Gujarat

509. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial pipeline Natural Gas connections issued by the Gujarat Government during the last two years;

(b) the criteria adopted by Government for issuing such gas connections; and

(c) the number of applications received from the State of Gujarat for such new connections so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Six such connections were given by Gas Authority of India Limited.

(b) Allocations of natural gas are based generally on the imputed values with preference being given to the power, fertiliser and steel sectors.

(c) No new applications are being entertained as the available gas is fully allocated.

Discovery of new oil wells at Bombay High by ONGC

510. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six new oil wells have been located at the Bombay High by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the estimated reserves of these wells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. During the current year, success in hydrocarbons exploration has been met with in six structures in Bombay Offshore basin.

(b) The data review/assessment has not been completed yet.

Pricing of Slack Wax and Paraffin Wax

511. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the slack wax which is the raw material of Small Scale Industrial Units for manufacturing Parafin Wax, has been placed under Free Trade Product, while their finished product i.e. Paraffin Wax is placed under the Administered Pricing Product;

(b) if so, whether any representation has been received from the Association of Wax Manufacturers, seeking relief on account of the above discrimination; if so, what action has been taken by Government to safeguard the interests of these SSI Units from the exploitation by the large scale sectors;